

Senator Seward on the Fugitive Law.

ACADEMY, April 5th, 1851.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter inviting me to attend a Convention of the people of Massachusetts on the Fugitive Slave Law, and to communicate in writing my opinions on that statute (it should be so called) to the Convention, has been received.

While offering the pressure of duties here, too long deferred, as an apology for non-attendance, I pray you to excuse my non-attendance in whose behalf you act of my profound sense of their courtesy and kindness. It would be an honor to be invited to address the people of Massachusetts on any subject; but it might well satisfy a generous addition to be called upon to speak to that great and enlightening Commonwealth on a question of Human Rights and Civil Liberty.

I confess, Sir, that I have earnestly desired not to mingle in the popular discussions of the measures of the last Congress. The issue necessarily involves the claims of the advocates and adversaries in the public councils to the confidence of the country. Some of these advocates have entered the popular arena, erasing those from whom they had differed, while others have endeavored by extraordinary means either to control discussion, or to suppress it altogether, and thus they have shown themselves disqualified by prejudice or interest, for practicing that impartiality and candor which the occasion demanded. I am unwilling even to seem to imply by reiterating arguments already before the public, either any distrust of the position of those with whom I stand in Congress, or impatience for that favorable popular verdict which I believe to be near, and know to be ultimately certain.

Nevertheless there can be no impropriety in my declaring, when thus questioned, the opinions which will govern my vote upon any occasion when the Fugitive Slave Law shall come up for review in the National Legislature. I think the act singularly unwise, because it is an attempt by a purely federal government to extend the economy of slave States throughout States which repudiate slavery as a moral, social, and political evil. Any despotic government would awake sedition from its profound slanders by such an attempt. The attempt by this government has aroused constitutional resistance which will not cease until the effort shall be relinquished. He who teaches other faith than this, whether self-deceived or not, misleads. I think also that the attempt was unnecessary; that political ends, merely political ends, and not real evils resulting from the escape of slaves, constituted the prevailing motives to the enactment. I think also that the details of the measure are indefensible; that the denial to the alleged fugitive of a trial of his alleged obligation to labor, and of his escape from it by a court, and nothing less than a court of justice constitutionally organized and proceeding according to the course of the common law, within the State where he is claimed, is palpably in derogation of the Constitution; that the rules of evidence which the law prescribes are oppressive of the weak and defenseless; and that Christendom might be searched in vain for a parallel to the provisions which make escape from bondage a crime by a law retroactive in its effect, and without limitations of time to favor the preservation of freedom, which under rigorous penalties compel freedom to aid in the capture of slaves, and which offer unmistakable inducements to false claims and false judgments. Finally, whatever changes of opinion others may have undergone, I retain my earliest convictions that the constitutional provision on which the law purports to be founded, is merely a compact between the States, and that the Congress of the United States has no jurisdiction of the subject.

Nor is the law which is so obnoxious in itself, commended to my favor by its connection with what are called the other measures of compromise. Compromise implies a mingling of truth and error, right and wrong. One of those affiliated measures denied the admission of New Mexico, because she had determined to come as a free State, and remanded her with permission to come back in the habilitations of slavery. Another distinctly intimated to the Mexicans the consent of Congress that they should, if they could, plant a Slave State in the very recesses of the Continent. A third abolished a public slave mart in the city of Washington, without abating either the extent or the duration of slavery in the District of Columbia. A fourth obtained peace on humiliating terms from one of the youngest and feeblest members of the Confederacy in an attitude of sedition; while a fifth only reluctantly admitted California as a free State when she had refused to contaminate herself with slavery. Which one of these measures has superfluous merit to be received in extenuation of the Fugitive Slave Law? But we are told that had these measures been, they were the best that could be obtained. On the contrary there were always enough for the admission of California. The Thirty-first Congress might have admitted her, and left the other questions to another Congress, which, instructed by the People, might have done better, and certainly could not have done worse.

Nor do I find the Fugitive Slave Law growing in my favor on the ground of the already falsified promise of an end of the agitation of slavery in the Republic—an agitation which, whether beneficial or otherwise, is as inseparable from our political organization, as the winds and the clouds are from the atmosphere that encircles the earth.

I have weighed moreover the argument that some portion of the people in some of the States have made the perpetuity of the Fugitive Slave Law a condition of new declarations of Loyalty to the Union. That Loyalty is a duty resulting from the Constitution, and is equally due whether the measures of administration are satisfactory or unsatisfactory. I regret that any thing should have happened to encourage a belief that loyalty could be accepted on condition, and especially on the condition of forbearing to repeal a repulsive statute. But since it is so, I can only say that we, on whom the recent action of the government bears, as it seems to us, so unjustly, are in the Union for richer, for poorer—for better, for worse—whether in a majority or in a minority, whether in power or powerless—without condition, reservation, qualification or limitation, forever and aye; that we are in the Union, not because we are satisfied with its administration, but whether satisfied or not; not at all by means of compromises or understandings, but by virtue of the Constitution, and that all other parties are in the Union on the same terms, for the same terms, and by

virtue of the same obligation; and so they will find their case to be, when they offer to plead violations of extra constitutional conditions to justify secession. Whatever is irreparable in any of the acts of the late Congress, no one will be mad enough to attempt to repeal. Whatever is irreparable in those acts, and whatever shall be irreparable in future acts of Congress, whether it favor Freedom or Slavery, no matter under what circumstances, nor with what auspices, nor with what solemnities it may have been adopted, must abide the trial of experience, of reason, and of truth. It is only in this way that the Constitution can be maintained, and the Union can be saved. Its security consists in its adaptation to the physical and moral necessities of the broad and ever extending empire which it protects and defends, and in the facility with which, without violence or sudden change, errors of administration can be corrected, and new exigencies can be met. So that the State, free or slaveholding, which may at any time be least favored, will be at all times safer under this government when worst administered, than it would be under any other, however wisely constituted, or favorably conducted.

I think, my dear Sir, that all this is virtually confessed now by those who, while they see that their complicated schemes for that suppression of free debate which they thought essential to the safety of the Union have failed, nevertheless admit that the Union is no longer in danger. And therefore I think we may at least congratulate ourselves on the discovery, that not only are our extra constitutional compromises unnecessary, but that the Union has strength and ability enough to endure, notwithstanding that such compromises under the influence of an unwise legislative distrust are sometimes unnecessarily and unavailingly made. I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your humble servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN A. ANDREW, Esq., Secretary of the Committee to call a Convention of the People of Massachusetts on the subject of the Fugitive Slave Law, Boston.

CANDIDATES.—The Louisville *Varieties* indulges its taste for burlesque by holding the following Presidential banquet: "For President, James G. Swisshelm; for Vice President, Horace Greeley." That's not a bad ticket, but before we promise to support it we must have a pledge from James that he won't issue a Proclamation against Women's Conventions after reaching the White House.—*Anti-Slavery Bugle*.

CANNOT say, Mr. Johnson, what we shall do about the Conventions. We give no pledges, and are the non-committal candidate; but we do intend to go in for the Union in the event of reaching the White House, and as these Women's Conventions are thought dangerous, it might become our painful duty to summon all good citizens with the army and navy to maintain the laws, and send all fugitive women home to their masters. If such should become our constitutional duty, we assuredly will make a most desperate blunder, and save the nation with a proclamation, or some such impotent fortification. However, we have not yet decided to accept the nomination of the *Varieties*. The South had the President and the North the Vice President last time, and turn about is fair play. We would be a regular South Carolina candidate, for we advocate nullification, free trade and Lynch law, and it would keep brother Horace pretty busy to play second fiddle when he heard the music. Then he would be an ugly customer to manage, even in a subordinate place. We like "Bill Patterson's" arrangement better. In his "Man About Town" away out in Indiana, he nominates Grace Greenwood for President, and himself for Vice President. We should not be much afraid of having things our own way with Grace as a candidate; and if the *Varieties* will just reconsider, put Grace in and leave Horace out, we will in the event of our election promise our Louisville friends great doings in Washington for four years.—*Pittsburgh Visitor*.

ANOTHER AFFECTING CASE.—There is now in this city, for the purpose of securing the means to ransom herself and three children from slavery, a worthy, middle-aged woman, named ELIZA GORDON. Her credentials are of the best character, and her case is as follows:—Thirteen years ago, she escaped from Kentucky to Canada, and afterwards went to Detroit, where she was married, and subsequently became the mother of three children. She afterwards removed to Pittsburgh, and from thence to Gallipolis, Ohio, at which place she was recently betrayed by a black villain, named David Bush; iron were put on her hands while her babe was nursing at her breast; the force of an examination before a justice of the peace was hastily performed; and she was hurried out of the State to Louisville, Ky., her three free-born children being kidnapped and carried away with her at the same time. The villain who has thus done it in his possession demands \$1000 for their redemption. In order that she might make an effort to raise that sum in the free States, her mother and sister (both free) have consented to be held as hostages until her return.—She has raised about \$250, and now implores the assistance of all charitable and Christian people in this her terrible extremity.—*Liberator*.

THE THREE CENT PIECES.—Preparations are making for a large issue of this coin from the Philadelphia Mint at an early day. By authority of the Treasury Department, a great part of the Silver Bullion held will be converted into these pieces, and after reserving a sufficient supply for the various Government offices, the balance will be exchanged for deposits of foreign Silver Coins or Bullion, and also for American Gold and Silver Coins. A fund is likewise provided for procuring future supplies of Silver Bullion for this purpose, so that all the public demands may be promptly satisfied. To prevent undue accumulations of these coins in single hands, a discretion is allowed to decline selling more than \$150 worth at a time to one applicant. Authority is also given to deliver the coins in distant cities at the cost of the Mint, for transportation, as is now the case in distributing the copper coinage. Due notice will hereafter be given of the time at which applications for the new coin will be received.

One reason why the Londoners omitted the use of wood in constructing the building for the World's Fair is, that there would be so many Yankees there, they were afraid they would scold it down.

The Anti-Slavery Bugle.

WHEN GOD COMMANDS TO TAKE THE TRUMPET AND BLOW A DOUBTLESS OR A FARRING HEART, IT LIES NOT IN MAN'S WILL WHAT HE SHALL SAY OR WHAT HE SHALL CONCEAL.—Milton.

SALEM, OHIO, APRIL 19, 1851.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets May 4th.

Borrowed Books.

The Editor of The Bugle is under the necessity of asking all those who have in their possession any books belonging to him, to return them forthwith. The reasons for making this request are imperative and will not admit of delay.

Appointments for Mrs. Coe.

We announce with great satisfaction that Mrs. EMMA R. COE is expected to lecture on the subject of Woman's Position, Duties, Education, &c., at the following times and places:

Dover, Monday, April 23.

Ravenna, Tuesday and Wednesday April 23 and 24.

Ravenna, Friday, May 1.

Marion, Sunday and Monday, May 4 and 5.

Mount Union, Wednesday, May 7.

Canton, Friday and Saturday, May 9.

Massillon, Monday and Tuesday, May 12 and 13.

Wooster, Thursday and Friday, 15 and 16.

Litchfield, Tuesday and Wednesday 20 and 21.

Akron, Friday 23.

Friends of the cause in the above places may appoint the meetings for afternoon or evening as they may think best.

Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

By the 8th article of the Constitution, it is provided that "the annual meeting of the Society shall be held each year at such time and place as the Executive Committee may direct." Hitherto, since the formation of the Society, the annual meeting has been uniformly held in the city of New York, and usually in the Broadway Tabernacle. So absolute, however, is the sway of the Slave Power in that city, and such the fear of mobocratic excesses, (stimulated by "THE UNION COMMITTEE" on the one hand, and the lawless rixxons and his crew on the other,) that no meeting house or hall, in that great city, can be procured, either for the love of liberty or for gold, for the accommodation of the Society. Neither in the adjacent city of Brooklyn can any suitable building be obtained for this purpose.

Leaving these cities to the historical infamy which awaits them, the Executive Committee, in accordance with the urgent request of the friends of impartial liberty in Western New York, hereby give notice that the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society will be held at SYRACUSE, N. Y., on WEDNESDAY, May 7th, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.—at which time and place they earnestly invite a full attendance of its members and friends; believing that the crisis is such, in the conviction of every intelligent mind, both as to the preservation of our own liberties and the emancipation of the millions who are still clanking the fetters of slavery, as to render needless any special appeal.

It is with great pleasure the Committee announce, that their distinguished and eloquent coadjutor, GEO. THOMSON, M. P., has promised to give his attendance, and participate in the proceedings. The Rev. THEODORE PARKER, of Boston, has also signified his intention to be with us on the occasion, if practicable, as well as other able advocates of "LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY." A series of meetings, of the most interesting and stirring character, may be confidently expected. Much reliance is placed on the readiness and determination of the friends of the cause at the West to improve this opportunity to commune with their brethren from the East.

In behalf of the Executive Committee, WM. LLOYD GARRISON, Pres.

WENDELL PHILLIPS, Secy.
STANLEY HOWARD GAY, } Secretaries.

Editors of papers are respectfully requested to notify their readers of the time and place of holding this anniversary.

MARTIN R. ROBINSON was appointed by the Executive Committee of the Western Anti-Slavery Society, at their recent meeting, a Delegate to represent the Committee in the Anti-Slavery Convention which has been held in Cincinnati the past week. We trust that nothing occurred to prevent his attendance, and that the readers of The Bugle will have an account of the Convention from his pen.

ELECTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Another effort was made to elect members of Congress in four vacant Districts of Massachusetts a few days ago. The result shows that recent events have worked against the Administration.—CHARLES ALLEN, the man who dared to expose the conduct of Daniel Webster in receiving a bribe at the hands of the brokers of New York and Boston, is triumphantly re-elected, while Palfrey has gained so much as to render his success (by plurality) at the next trial almost certain. Upham, the renegade priest turned politician and the supple tool of Webster, has lost ground; and there is a fair prospect that Rantoul (Free Soil Dem.) will be chosen by plurality at the next trial. In the Seventh District there is no choice.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.—We have concluded after all to publish this document, and it will occupy the outside pages of our next issue. Many of our readers will be glad to see it, and those who are not will console themselves with the reflection that its insertion will serve to transfer nearly thirty dollars from the Treasury of the State to that of the Western Anti-Slavery Society.

The Boston Slave Case.

We gave an account last week of the arrest at Boston of an alleged Fugitive Slave, named Thomas Sims, from Savannah, and of proceeding consequent thereupon as far as they were then known. The conclusion of the affair is summed up in the following telegraphic dispatch from the Pittsburgh Gazette of Monday:

BOSTON, April 12.

During last night, there was but little excitement in the city. The watchmen and police were under military drill until 4 o'clock this morning, when they halted in a body in front of the east door of the Court House. The fugitive slave Sims was then brought from the place of his confinement, and placed in the area, when the whole force moved in a body down State street, to the long wharf, where Sims was deposited on board the brig Acorn, Capt. Connes. The brig was then towed down the harbor by the steamer Hornet, and is now probably under good headway for Savannah.

Several officers accompanied the Captain, and the whole affair passed off very quietly. There were from three to four hundred watchmen and policemen, in the column, all armed and equipped. The military were not seen at all, but were kept in readiness in case of need.

The U. S. States Marshal, Devins, and the City Marshal, Tukey, were in the column, as also the U. S. States Deputy Marshal.

The spectators who followed the procession down to the brig, did not exceed 100 in number. There was no disturbance, except a little hissing.

Massachusetts is thus redeemed and the supremacy of the laws vindicated.

"Massachusetts redeemed!" by consigning a human being to slavery under the requisitions of a law whose atrocity finds no parallel even in the legislation of despotic governments.—"Redeemed!" by a deed which outrages every principle of her Constitution, tarnishes the brightest page of her history, insults the memory of her founders, makes the angels weep and raises an exultant chorus in hell!

—We will now go back and present some of the most important incidents in the history of this case.

It has already been stated that after the arrest of Sims, the Court House (an immense stone structure) was surrounded by a chain, inside of which were stationed police officers to keep the people from approaching the seat of justice. (1) Richard H. Dana, Jr., (a young lawyer of Boston and author of "Two Years before the Mast") in a speech at Worcester, said:

I should like to take every man, woman, and child of you and show you the spectacle that the capital of your own old Commonwealth presents at this moment. You will there see, if you have not already seen, the great Temple of Justice for this Commonwealth, actually chained around, so that not a judge, juror, counsellor, or witness, can enter into this temple of justice, except by bowing their heads under this chain, [sensation.] stretched there by the slave power, [cries of "shame!"] to ensure the capture and return to slavery of a man alleged to be a fugitive. [Renewed cries of "shame!"]—This, fellow citizens, is no exaggeration; the reports you may have heard, and the pictures you may have seen, represent the truth, to which every man who has witnessed will testify. Had you been in Boston, you would have seen the venerable Chief Justice of your Commonwealth, bowing his head to the ground under that chain; you would have seen the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, walk up to that chain, with his free soul heart, (for that's in him,) and demand that that chain should be removed, and the officers who charge refused. He has since issued an order for its removal, and that order—[loud cheers] stop, don't give your applause too soon—that order has been disobeyed! [Sensation, and cries of "shame!"] And it will be disobeyed! I tell you, that there is not moral force enough in the city of Boston, to execute the laws of the Commonwealth! I myself, before I leave the Court House, have managed to get even that chain, whenever I have gone into the Court House; and if I cannot go in so, I shall not go in at all. [Loud applause.] A few hours ago, I took with me, the noble candidate for the 4th District, Dr. Palfrey, whose almost bleeding heart was ached with the sight of that chain, and such a spectacle as the Court House of Boston. I said to him, "can you get over the chain?" He replied, "If I cannot, I will go home." [Cheers.]

The fact that persons desiring admittance to the Court of Common Pleas, have been denied entrance, was brought to the notice of Chief Justice Wells, by John A. Bolles, Esq., who read the affidavits of several persons setting forth these facts. The Judge instantly cited officer Jones (the party complained of) before him, and stated that he, the Mayor, nor the U. S. Marshal had any right to obstruct the entrance to his Court. Not only witnesses and parties, but EVERY SPECTATOR has a right to be present in that Court; and the Chief Justice directed Sheriff Eveleth to see by whose authority this contempt of Court was committed, and to take care that access to the Court Room should be free.

A gentleman anxious to visit the Court House was told by an officer in attendance, that he could not be admitted, not even with a card endorsed by Gen. Devens, the Marshal, which he held in his hands. The only way of getting in, he said, would be to wait until the Marshal with his friends passed in, give the pass-word that he was a Southern gentleman, and the way would be open.

The hounds of the kidnappers carried matters so far as to forbid persons having business in the courts to pass through the corridor leading past the U. S. Marshal's office, while the hearing before Commissioner Curtis was proceeding in that room.

An application for a habeas corpus was made before the full bench of the State Supreme Court, but unanimously denied after argument.

Chief Justice Shaw said a case might arise under the operation of the Fugitive act which would call for such a writ, but it could not be issued in this instance.

Judge Woodbury, of the U. S. Circuit Court, issued a habeas corpus, and after the parties were brought before him, consigned the fugitive again to the custody of the Marshal. There was much applause on the announcement of the decision and also when the Judge, in reply to the prisoner's counsel, exclaimed: "I thank God Massachusetts is still a State of the Union, and as long as she is such, she shall administer the laws or perish in the attempt."

A writ of personal replevin, technically known as the writ of *hominie replegiando*, was addressed to the Sheriff of Suffolk, commanding him to take the body of Thomas Sims and have him before the Court of Common Pleas. The writ was placed in the hands of one of his deputies, but it was unserved, the Marshal refus-

ing to surrender his prey. This writ was issued in compliance with the statute law of the State, but the officers of the Commonwealth were powerless before the minions of the South.

Deputy Sheriff Coburn demanded the fugitive on a criminal process for having stabbed officer Butman, with intent to kill. But the U. S. Marshal held on to his prey in defiance of the State laws.

The following is an extract from the laws of Massachusetts:

"No sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, CONSTABLE, jailor, or other officer of this Commonwealth, shall hereafter arrest or detain, or aid in the arrest or detention or imprisonment in any jail, or other building belonging to this Commonwealth, or to any county, city or town thereof, of any person for the reason that he is claimed as a fugitive slave."

And yet, says the Commonwealth, in violation of this express provision "to protect personal liberty," constables, with the very status of office in their hands, are now perambulating the court house, a building belonging to the Co. of Suffolk, in order to aid in the detention of the person for the reason that he is claimed as a fugitive slave. The constables of Boston, in contravention of the law of Massachusetts, joined with the Marshal of the United States, in detaining a person claimed as a fugitive slave. Where is that zeal for the law, which so many in State street have recently manifested? Why does all its indignation sleep when the violation of law is not for freedom, but for slavery?

The following request was sent to the clergymen in Boston and the vicinity, on Sunday the 6th, and in several instances was feelingly complied with:

The undersigned, a freeman, and in peril, desires the prayers of this congregation that God may deliver him from the oppressor, and restore him to freedom.

his
THOMAS S. SIMS.
mark.

Boston, April 5, 1851.

Witness—S. E. SEWALL,

E. W. JACKSON.

On Monday, a warrant was put into the hands of a Deputy Sheriff for the arrest of John B. Bacon, the agent for the claimant of Sims, and M. S. De Lyon, a witness in the case, in the name of Thomas Sims of Boston, laborer. The writ charged that the said Bacon and De Lyon did, wickedly, maliciously, and unlawfully, conspire and combine to confine, within this State, against his will, and without lawful authority, the said plaintiff, and also conspired and combined to kidnap said plaintiff, and carry him out of the State, to be held to service against his will. They each gave bail in \$5000 for their appearance.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the above was in type we have received the N. Y. Tribune of Saturday last, in which we find the following telegraphic despatch.

Boston, Saturday, April 12.

After the decision of Judge Woodbury last night, that there was no ground to interfere with the certificate of Mr. Curtis remanding Sims, preparations began to be made to convey him back. The brig Acorn had been hauled to the end of Long Wharf, having been previously fitted up for an extra number of passengers.

During the night, Court House Square was filled with a crowd who were collected in knots discussing the matter and occasionally looting at the officers. There were a number of females among them. The proceedings in and about the Court House were closely watched by the Abolitionists.—At about 3 o'clock detachments of the City Watch to the number of 150 arrived, with clubs and hooks, and were brought into the neighborhood of Court-square. The Police force under Marshal Tukey arrived with short-swords, assembled in the square, went through some evolutions and finally formed in a hollow square in front of the side entrance to the Court House.

When all was ready word was given to the U. S. Marshal and Sims was brought down and placed in the center of the square. He appeared to be in good spirits, his limbs being free from irons or handcuffs of any description. The procession was led by the U. S. Marshal and his Deputies, followed by the armed police—they proceeded through Court and State sts., and down Long Wharf, followed by about one hundred Abolitionists, among whom was the Rev. Mr. Colver.—Not the least attempt at violence was made. Mr. Colver and other persons in the crowd occasionally denounced the proceedings and called for the thunderbolts of Heaven to be poured down upon them. When the procession reached the Wharf the brig was found to be all ready, and the steamer Hornet alongside with her steam up. Sims was taken immediately into the cabin.

The Acorn had two Cannons on board to protect her from any assault on the passage. The word was given to let go the fastenings, and she was soon under way. About thirty police officers accompanied the vessel as far as the steamer went, as a protection from officers of this city, including U. S. Deputy Marshals Sawin and Byrne, accompanying the Fugitive in the vessel to Savannah. Just as the vessel was about to leave the wharf, some of the crowd sang several hymns, such as "From Greenland's Icy Mountains"—"Oh! There will be Mourning at the Judgment Seat of Christ"—"Be thou, O God, exalted high," &c.

One man, just as Sims was going below, called out to him to "preach liberty to the slaves;" and as the brig was departing Rev. Mr. Foster, orthodox minister of Concord, made the following:

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, Thou seest this poor man, one of thy children, borne away by oppressors; Thou art the friend of all who suffer wrong, and we have now no hope but in Thee; that hope is still unshaken; Thy promises endure for ever, and now we beseech Thee to show Thy power and love in blessing this dear brother, who is carried by force to the land of whips and chains. Oh! God, make him a missionary of power to awaken a love of justice and liberty that shall end in the speedy overthrow of the accursed system which now causes millions of bleeding hearts. In mercy, Heavenly Father, do Thou destroy the wicked power which rules us. Give us righteous men to administer just laws, forgive the wickedness of our rulers and lead them to true and lasting repentance. Pity the wretched man who now goes in fetters over the waves; pity and bless his brethren in chains;

hasten the day when all men shall be free, and thine shall be the glory. Amen!

It was just 5 when he left. The Abolitionist Vigilance Committee met at 54 and passed a resolution respectfully asking the people of Massachusetts to roll the bells in the several towns, as the intelligence reaches them of the return of a fugitive slave from the Commonwealth. They have also appointed a meeting for public religious services on the occasion. A person with rather loud lungs, as the procession moved down State-st., recited the events of the Boston Massacre that occurred in that street before the Revolution.

A Little too Fast.

Does not our friend of the *Presidence Mirror* jump to very important conclusions from very inadequate premises in what he says about recent events in Boston? Let us see.

"A few years since, the abolitionists of this country were mobbed in almost every Northern city. They cried persecution and martyrdom, and gained converts by being abused. Now, instead of being mobbed, a few of them at least—and these of the anti-voting and non-resistant part—seek to be the mobbers. But a few years have elapsed since their papers rang with denunciations of men who advised mob law, and now we see them assembled on Boston Common and openly advise a forcible resistance to law—a mob. We are willing to make all due allowance for exaggerated accounts, and still have facts enough to show that some of the Anti-Slavery martyrs have turned from mobbed to mobbing."

Now with all proper deference to the *Mirror* we think it does not "make all due allowance for exaggerated accounts," in treating as correct a report of a speech made by Wendell Phillips which appeared in "the Boston papers" known to be hostile to him and his views and under strong temptation to misrepresent them. We have no doubt that a true report of the speech would show that the charge of advocating mobocracy is unfounded. Be that as it may, however, the *Mirror* is entirely wrong in speaking of Mr. Phillips as a Non-Resistant, for he is no such thing and has never professed to be. His "anti-voting" rests wholly upon other grounds, as does that of most members of the American Anti-Slavery Society. But why did the *Mirror* single out Mr. Phillips for censure, and pass by its voting friends, Colver, Parker, Wright, Cline, and others, who were certainly very conspicuous in the meeting on Boston Common, and quite as obnoxious to the charge of "mobocracy" as he was? In fact, we believe Mr. P. was the only anti-voting Abolitionist who spoke at that meeting. The Chairman of the meeting and nearly all the speakers were certainly Abolitionists of the voting sort, and therefore we protest against the declaration of the *Mirror* that it was made up of "the anti-voting and non-resistant part" of the family.—Please be a little more careful of your facts, Mr. *Mirror*, and don't let your prejudice against non-voters overbear your candor.

Senator Wade.

So much interest has been exhibited in knowing the character and sentiments of Judge Wade, since his election to the U. S. Senate, that we copy from the New Lisbon *Patriot* the following extract of a letter written by him to a citizen of that place:

JEFFERSON, April 6th, 1851.

"First then, I am a Whig, always a Whig, and nothing else—a Whig, because I believe the best interests of our country are connected with the success of that party; always too much devoted to the party to see it lend itself to the furtherance of measures which I cannot approve without an endeavor to prevent its so doing. It shall be my endeavor truly to represent this great State, and not any particular section of it. I shall, to the best of my ability, rebuke any attempted encroachment of Slavery into territory now free, or any naughty and insolent attempt to overcome the free States by threats of 'dissolution of the Union,' or any measures intended to insult northern feeling. You know that I am hostile to the 'compromise measures,' so called, and especially the 'Fugitive Law'; but I shall endeavor to deal fairly with the South. I do not intend to be an agitator, but while slavery will consent to remain within her own States, without attempted aggression, I shall feel no disposition to interfere with her; in that I intend to be a true Whig. I regret to see a disposition in any part of this State to engraft the compromise measures upon the doctrines of the Whig party; the attempt to make these measures a test of Whiggery would be to destroy the party, on the Reserve at least. Whereas, if the Whigs of the South and middle portions of the State could be made a little more tolerant upon this subject, we should be able to act together next fall as of old."

CONNECTION.—There is no choice of State officers by the people, but the Whigs having a small majority in the Legislature will elect their ticket and a U. S. Senator. The Congressional delegation stands 2 Whigs, 1 Hunker Democrat, 1 Free-soil.

THE CHURCH FOR MODIFICATION.—We believe that every Abolitionist will respond heartily to this sentiment of EDWARD QUINCY, as recently expressed in the *Anti-Slavery Standard*.

"For our own part, we have no particular desire to see the present law repealed or modified. If slaves are to be recaptured and carried back, the worse the law is that regulates it the better we like it. What we preach is not Repeal, nor Modification, but Disobedience. We are content with the existing law provided we can persuade the people not to suffer it to be executed. We think it much better than one which would avoid the common objections to it. If the liberty of any man is to be endangered by constitutional legislation, in God's name let it be the free and not the slave."

HO! FOR NEW YORK.—The *Tribune* says the construction of the Erie Railroad will be completed to Dunkirk by the 15th inst., and by the first of May the iron horse that quaffs the waters of the Hudson in the morning, will quaff the waters of the Lake at nightfall. In anticipation of this the Directors of the company have made arrangements to check baggage through to Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, &c.

The day line will run through in 16 hours, night line in 18 hours; they will make the run from New York to Cleveland in 26 or 27 hours, to Detroit 36 hours, Cincinnati 40 hours, Chicago 48 to 50 hours.